

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for separating a plant material, consisting of whole plants or plant parts, into a liquid fraction and a solid plant residue, and performing concurrent sterilization of the liquid fraction and the solid plant residue comprising:

- a) fast deep-freezing said plant material by immersion in a cold fluid;
- b) crushing the deep-frozen plant material, thereby obtaining a bioextract;
- c) defrosting said bioextract mixture and draining liquids from the defrosted

bioextract mixture; and,

d) separating the liquids obtained from the defrosted bioextract mixture to form a liquid fraction, leaving a solid substance which forms the solid plant residue of the defrosted bioextract mixture, said fast deep-freezing step simultaneously cold sterilizing said liquid fraction and said solid plant residue and,

- e) filtering the separated liquid fraction and,

_____f) sterilizing the liquid fraction by employing one or more cold sterilization cycles, each cold sterilization cycle including a fast deep-freeze of the liquid fraction followed by a fast defrost of the liquid fraction.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A process for separating a plant material, consisting of whole plants or plant parts, into a liquid fraction and a solid plant residue, and performing concurrent sterilization of the liquid fraction and the solid plant residue comprising:

- a) fast deep-freezing said plant material by immersion in a cold fluid;

- b) crushing the deep-frozen plant material, thereby obtaining a bioextract;
- c) defrosting said bioextract mixture and draining liquids from the defrosted bioextract mixture; and,
- d) separating the liquids obtained from the defrosted bioextract mixture to form a liquid fraction, leaving a solid substance which forms the solid plant residue of the defrosted bioextract mixture, said fast deep-freezing step simultaneously cold sterilizing said liquid fraction and said solid plant residue, ~~and,~~
- e) homogenizing the separated solid plant residue by processing the solid plant residue to an average particle size of no more than about 0.6 micron, and,
- f) sterilizing the solid plant residue by employing one or more cold sterilization cycles, each cycle including a fast deep-freeze of the solid plant residue followed by a fast defrost of the solid plant residue.

4. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein the fast deep freeze of the liquid fraction comprises freezing the liquid fraction by immersion in a cold fluid and keeping the liquid fraction frozen at a temperature within the range of about -130°C to -197°C for a period of about 10 seconds, and wherein the fast defrost of the liquid fraction comprises immersing the frozen liquid fraction in a hot liquid and warming the frozen liquid fraction to a temperature within the range of about 15°C to 20°C, the hot liquid having an initial temperature between about 80°C and 90°C.

5. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 4, wherein the cold fluid is liquid nitrogen.

6. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, further comprising using the sterilized liquid fraction or sterilized solid plant residue as ingredients in cosmetic, food, beverage, nutraceutical and pharmaceutical compositions by mixing the sterilized liquid fraction or sterilized solid plant residue with at least one intermediary selected from the group consisting of carriers, diluents, solvents, immersions, water miscible or immiscible extractants, and fluids.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein the plant material contains at least one plant belonging to the labiatae family.

9. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1 further comprising mixing the solid plant residue with at least one cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, solvent or extractant.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, further comprising using the sterilized liquid fraction or sterilized solid plant residue as natural colorants, flavorings and/or aromatics.

13. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic, food, nutraceutical or pharmaceutical composition comprising a separated and sterilized solid plant residue produced according to the process of claim 3 mixed together with at least one acceptable carrier, diluent, solvent or extractant.

14. (Original) The composition according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the plants, utilized for making said composition, belongs to the labiatae family.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 13, further comprising chlorophyll added for protecting a skin.

17. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 13, wherein the solid plant residue has an average particle size of no more than about 0.6 micron.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented) Composition according to claim 13, wherein the composition is a natural colorant, flavoring and/or aromatic.

21. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 3, wherein the fast deep freeze of the solid plant residue comprises freezing the solid plant residue by immersion in a cold fluid and keeping the solid plant residue frozen at a temperature within the range of about -130°C to -197°C for a period of about 10 seconds, and wherein the fast defrost of the solid plant residue comprises immersing the frozen solid plant residue in a hot liquid and warming the solid plant residue to a temperature within the range of about 15°C to 20°C , the hot liquid having an initial temperature ~~is~~ between about 80°C and 90°C .

22. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 21, wherein the cold fluid is liquid nitrogen.

23. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 3 wherein the plant material contains at least one plant belonging to the labiatae family.

24. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1 wherein the plant material contains leaves and/or shoots of the plant(s) together with, or separately from, roots thereof.

25. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 3 wherein the plant material contains leaves and/or shoots of the plant(s) together with, or separately from, roots thereof.

26. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 6 further comprising, prior to mixing with the intermediary, washing the solid plant residue with a solvent selected from the group consisting of water and organic solvents, homogenizing the washed solid plant residue and/or dehydrating the washed solid plant residue by freeze drying.

27. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 3, wherein the cold fluid is liquid nitrogen.